



107 Upper Brook Street Manchester 13 June 1878

My dear Mr. Garrison.

The late Archbishop Whately when he received a present of any book, always wrote immediately to thank the donor, and to assure him, that he promised himself much pleasure in reading it. It saved him the awkwardness of having to write an unpleasant letter, if the book disappointed him. As a general rule I follow the Archbishop's example, but when I saw the life of Sam. J. May with your autograph in it, I made up my mind immediately to write like I had read the book before thanking you: & now that I have read it twice I can honestly say that I am deeply grateful to you for the pleasure the book has given me. All our household were truly delighted, when we had W. May as our guest, and his memory had always been cherished amongst us as of one of the most truly Christian men we had ever seen. The Biography is worthy of the man, for it leaves the same impressions



hedid himself, only making the reader reverence him  
and love him more deeply as more of the excellence  
of the man comes out, the more of his life is known.  
I shall cherish the book, which containing your  
autograph, would always have been welcome, all the  
more, as it describes one whom I must call a  
truly model man. The great Antislavery struggle  
did call out very many noble spirits, and train  
them in an arduous school, but I do not think you  
numbered among your followers a purer or a more  
living soul than animated Sam. J. May. I am  
glad that he has found a biographer so fit as the  
author of this work: he must be a kindred mind  
to be able to give so life like a picture, and he  
must be a high minded man to have so appropriate  
his hero, and have written the book without ever



allowing the biographer to be seen. My wife is reading  
the life now, with the same pleasure that I had in it,  
and she is equally grateful to you for sending us the  
volume, and to W. Mumford for writing it.

All your friends here, often think of you. I rarely see  
Edward Ryellman without on speaking of you and yours.  
Poor fellow though he bears up with patience, the mark  
of his heavy loss ever appears. His children are  
doing remarkably well, and his business seems to  
thrive; but he has lost what no prosperity can ever  
restore.

I trust you are quite well and that your accident  
has left no bad traces. I wish I knew all your  
family that I might have a right to claim their friendship  
my good wishes. I send them however.

We are all just busy here as ever. Our Temperance  
work occupies much of our time. It is a battle of  
no small difficulty, and there is no immediate  
prospect of our carrying prohibitive measures; but our  
post is worth, and to leave results to God. More



promising is the progress of our women's question. The  
general tone of Society has much advanced in this  
matter during the last few years. It is estimated  
more fairly as touching the very root of social reform.  
I think that the suffrage as far as regard women were  
advocated more from general human considerations  
than it ordinarily is; the ground generally taken being  
that Repropery which women possess is at present  
unrepresented. But when sex is not any longer  
considered a ground of disqualification we may  
trust that the trider principles involved will come  
to the surface. - Old England has some trying days to  
go through yet, but there are cheering signs that  
right principles will never fail to find defenders  
amongst us, and her future is therefore quite secure.  
Please accept our repeated thanks for your kind remem-  
brance of us and believe me in my wife's, my  
children's, & my own name

respectfully and affectionately

Yours

S. Alfred Stearns

Wm Lloyd Garrison Esq